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CIA Kill Plots Not Demo Work

The planning and attempts at assassinating Cuban Premier Fidel Castro took place under President Eisenhower's administration, according to Las Vegas sources who were principals in the plot.

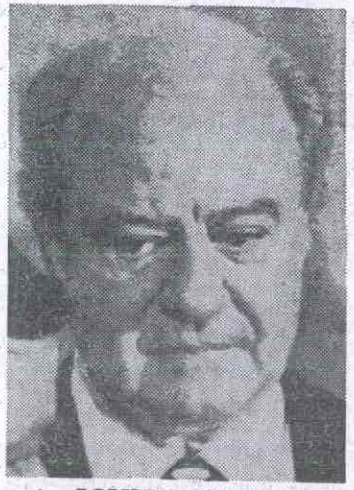
It was in early 1960 an alliance between organized crime figures and the Central Intelligence Agency was formed for the purpose of killing Castro.

These sources said that if Robert A. Maheu would testify before the Senate committee investigating CIA assassination plots, he would have to tell them the plots were hatched before President John Kennedy ever took office and he had no knowledge of them.

The former kingpin of billionaire Howard Hughes' Nevada empire, Maheu yesterday refused to answer questions of the Select Committee on Intelligence activities, taking the Fifth Amendment.

Other reliable SUN sources said President Ford definitely will not release publicly the part of the Rockefeller Commission report on intelligence activities which deals with assassinations.

There is speculation that the Rockefeller Commission puts the time element of recruiting assassins during Democratic administrations and he will turn the report over to the Senate committee so it will be Democrats pointing the finger of Democrats.



ROBERT A. MAHEU

But Maheu will explode a bomb if he decides to talk to the committee, according to SUN sources.

"It was actually in early 1960 that plans were made to get Castro," according to those sources.

The committee had not granted Maheu immunity at the hearing, which has already heard CIA Director William E. Colby and other intelligence officials testify under oath.

Maheu, in previous testimony last year in his $17.5 million defamation suit against Hughes, said he once hired a reputed Mafia figure for "a very sensitive assignment" for the CIA.

The agent, identified as Johnny

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Kill Plots Not Hatched By Demos

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Roselli, claimed later to have been involved in several assassination plots against Cuban leader Fidel Castro. Roselli also has been subpoenaed to appear before the Senate panel.

Mahen, accompanied by counsel Morton Galane, had only a series of "no comments" to reporters' questions as he left the closed session.

Asked if Maheu stood by his previous testimony on the Mafia, Galane said his client's testimony "has always been consistent."

Maheu for four years ran Hughes' multi-million gambling and other operations in Nevada before the eccentric recluse fired him in 1973 after saying Maheu "robbed me blind."

Maheu's name has cropped up in almost every investigation or allegation in connection with former President Richard M. Nixon, the Watergate scandal, the CIA and its alleged ties with the Hughes empire, the Mafia and other matters.

The Senate committee, which is concentrating on alleged CIA assassination plots, appears most interested in reputed connections with the Mafia.